"THEIR SOUL SHALL BE AS A WATERED GARDEN"

BODIES have been of little account in the last few years. We have seen them thrown by the handful like grains of sand on the balances. How many, many bodies have been bent and twisted and destroyed in the storm of war! They broke and died, but the soul lived, and no tempest of shrapnel and machine-gun bullets was able to touch it. Bodies bled and rotted in the trenches of Europe, performing thereby the highest service given to a body to perform. Souls grew beautiful and Christlike there, and were taken from the broken castle of the body to dwell on the banks of the River of Life with God.

A body is meant to serve—sometimes in mire and blood. The soul is meant to be always beautiful and clean and pure. Let us not mistake the nature and the end of each; let us never conclude that, because the body may walk in the mud and perform the highest service, the soul may reach out its hands to sin and still please God.

A watered garden—how much preparation and care the gardener has put into it! How much personal interest and planning! How much digging and fertilizing and pulling of weeds and carrying away of rubbish! Can a soul be made beautiful with less care and labor and time than a garden?

A watered garden—how beautiful it is! The plants are full and rounded out with leaves. There are blossoms and flowers everywhere. Color and order mark the whole inclosure. Oh, that we might enter the realms of the soul and find it always so!

A watered garden—how the fruit grows and increases! Every plant and every stem bends with it. It ripens and is gathered day by day by the gardener. How pleased he is as he takes it home! "And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither."

A watered garden—O precious spot to the gardener! Every hour that is his own he spends there. He knows and loves every plant—guards it and watches it with tender care. Every blossom brings him joy.

May God grant that in these days our souls may be to Him as watered gardens for the sake of Jesus Christ, who died and watered the garden of souls with his blood. We will give our bodies freely for whatever service duty requires of us, but let us keep our souls clean for Jesus Christ.

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